

POLS 103 A

Comparative Politics

Classes 18 and 19:
Coalitions and coalition-building
Executives

Recap

- Electoral systems:
 - District
 - Proportional representation
 - Mixed/hybrid
- Executive-legislative relations:
 - Selection
 - Oversight
 - Loss of confidence / impeachment
- Representation:
 - Districting and gerrymandering
 - Apportionment and malapportionment

Plan for this week

- Coalitions and coalition-building:
 - Minimum winning and grand coalitions
 - Winner-take-all vs. consociationalism
 - Coalition-building group activity
- Executives:
 - Heads of state and government
 - Executive structures
 - Executive functions and powers
 - Executives in Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom

How do elected members of legislatures gain control over government?

Coalition and coalition-building

- (Inter-party) coalition
- Minimum winning coalition
- Minimum connected winning coalition
- Minimum size coalition
- Grand coalition
- Winner-take-all
- Consociationalism

Coalition and coalition-building

- (Inter-party) coalition:
 - *A group of two or more political parties that shares power*
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 - *A governing coalition composed of two or more major parties that hold a supermajority of seats*
- Winner-take-all
- Consociationalism:
 - *A system in which formal mechanisms of power-sharing between multiple groups exist*

Coalition-building activity

- Results of the 2020 elections to the Parliament of the People's Republic of Sewanee:
 - People's Party of Sewanee, 5 seats
 - Citizens' Party of Sewanee, 5 seats
 - Yea Party of Sewanee, 3 seats
 - Party Party of Sewanee, 4 seats



Coalition-building activity

- Political orientations of the parties:
 - People's Party of Sewanee, 5 seats—left-wing
 - Yea Party of Sewanee, 3 seats—center-left
 - Party Party of Sewanee, 4 seats—center-right
 - Citizens' Party of Sewanee, 5 seats—right-wing

Coalition-building activity

- Revised political orientations of the parties:
 - People's Party of Sewanee, 5 seats—left-wing
 - Yea Party of Sewanee, 3 seats—center-left
 - Party Party of Sewanee, 4 seats—center-right
 - Citizens' Party of Sewanee, 5 seats—fascist, far-right

What is an executive?

Executive

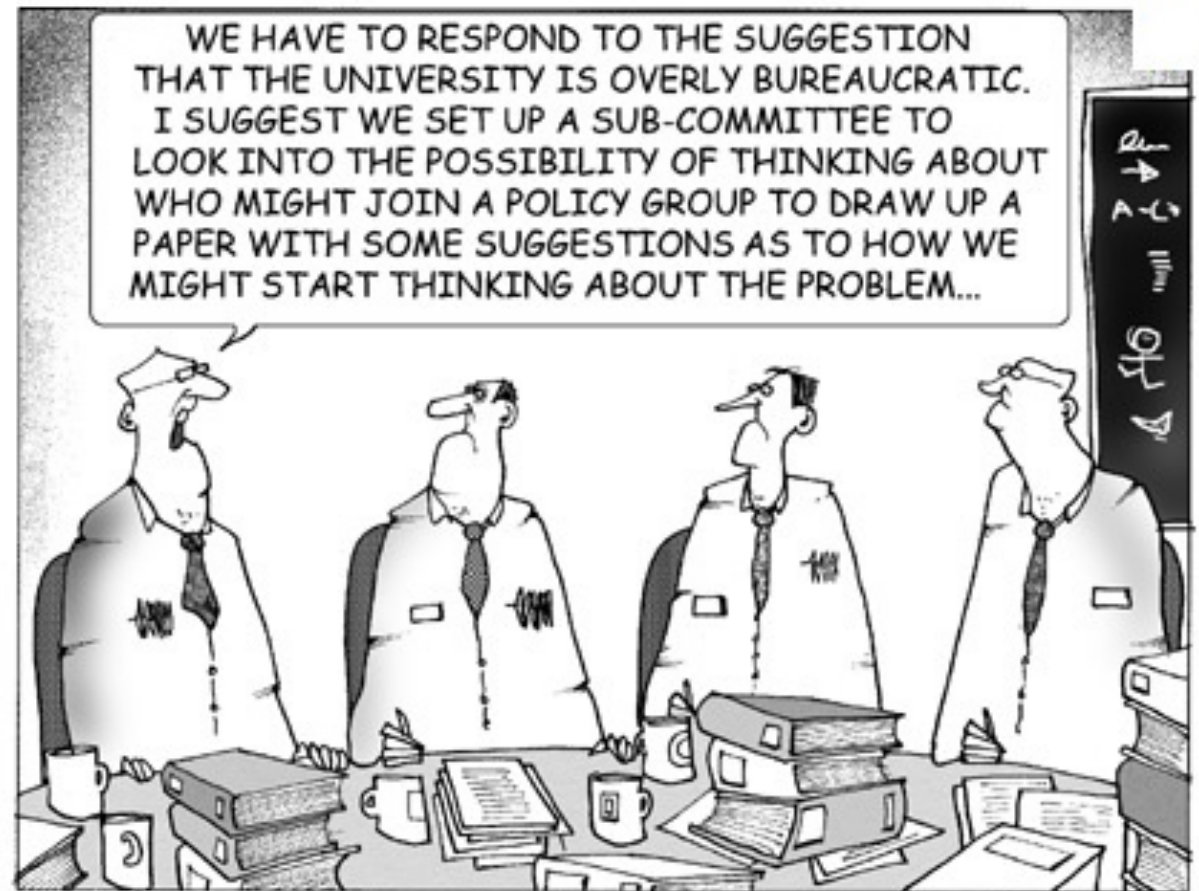
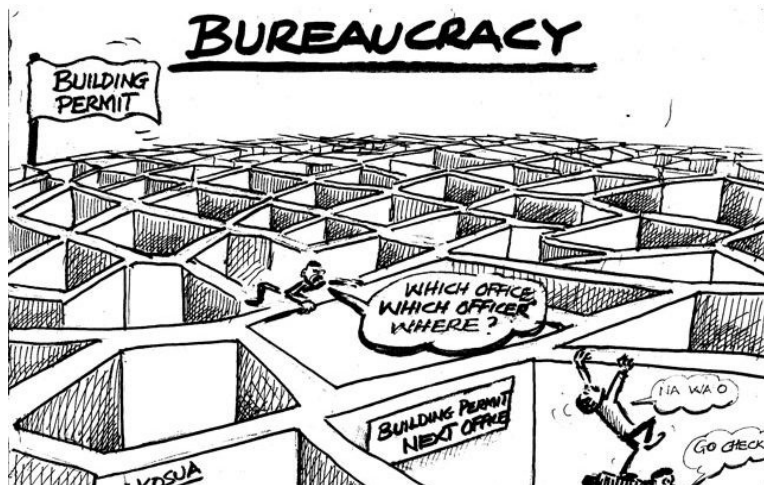
- *The government branch that executes or administers policies and laws*



What is a bureaucracy?

Bureaucracy

- *Organization, staffed by unelected officials, that implements, executes, and enforces laws and policies*

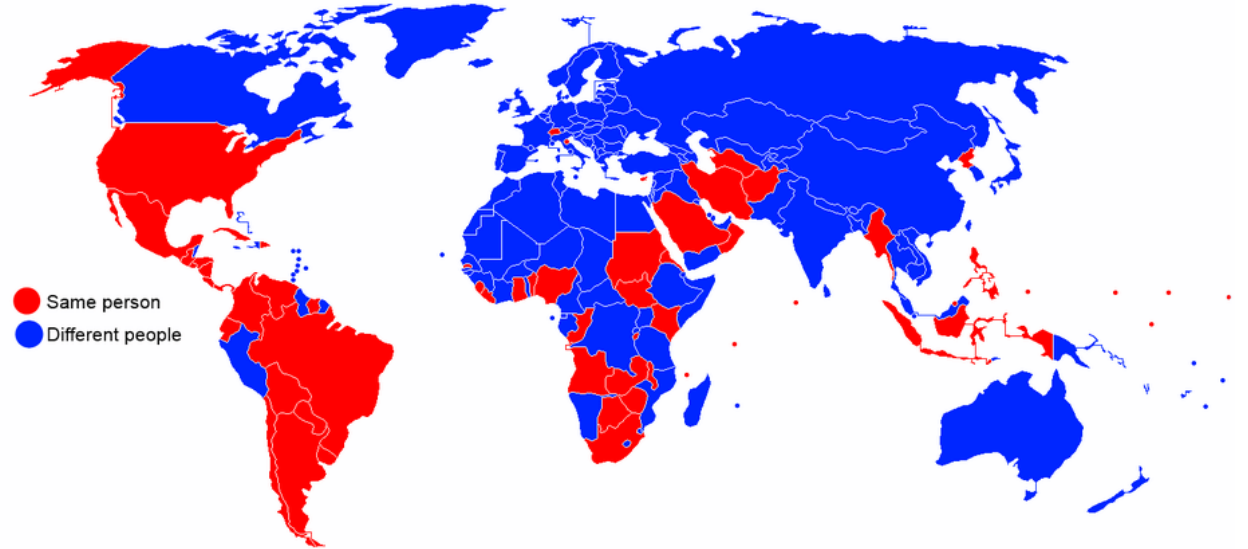


What is the difference
between bureaucracies
and executives?

What is the difference
between a head of state
and a head of government?

Heads of state and government

- Heads of state:
 - *Officials with executive functions who also serve as their countries' symbolic representatives*
- Heads of government:
 - *Top executive officials responsible for forming governments and formulating and implementing policies*



What titles do heads of state
and government have?

Executive structures

- Presidential
- Parliamentary
- Semi-presidential (hybrid)

Executive structures

- Presidential:
 - *President = chief executive*
 - *Formal separation of powers, e.g. checks and balances*
 - *Typically:*
 - *Head of state = head of government*
 - *Direct election*
- Parliamentary
- Semi-presidential (hybrid)

Executive structures

- Presidential:
 - *President = chief executive*
 - *Formal separation of powers, e.g. checks and balances*
 - *Typically:*
 - *Head of state = head of government*
 - *Direct election*
- Parliamentary:
 - *Head of government elected by and accountable to legislature*
 - *Indirect election*
- Semi-presidential

Nigeria

- Executive power vested in the president:
 - Both head of state and government
 - Currently Muhammadu Buhari
- President elected through universal suffrage
- US-inspired system of checks and balances, with the executive branch checked by the National Assembly and the Supreme Court



Nigeria



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_im_rNUp6Q

United Kingdom

- Extensive formal powers of the Crown
- Executive power exercised by the:
 - Government of the United Kingdom (Her Majesty's Government):
 - Headed by prime minister, appointed by the monarch from the ranks of MPs
 - In practice, the leader of the largest party in the House of Commons, currently Boris Johnson
 - Scottish Government
 - Welsh Government
 - Northern Ireland Executive
- Executive decisions and acts of parliament implemented by the civil service



United Kingdom



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9q7bfA5qn4>

Russia

- State headed by the president:
 - Extensive informal powers
 - Elected directly
 - Currently Vladimir Putin
- Executive power exercised by the government headed by the prime minister:
 - Appointed by president and confirmed by the State Duma (lower chamber of the Federal Assembly)
 - Currently Mikhail Mishustin



Functions and powers of executives

- Administration
- Veto power
- Dissolution of legislatures
- Secondary legislation: degrees and executive orders
- Declaration of the state of emergency and, rarely, war
- War-making

Limitations on executive powers

- Term limits
- Impeachment / loss of confidence

Limitations on executive powers

- Term limits:
 - *Restriction on the number of times or total amount of time an official can serve*
- Impeachment / loss of confidence

What kind of political system should Nigeria have?

- Constitutional design:
 - Federal vs. unitary
 - Parliamentary sovereignty vs. judicial review
 - Rigidity
- Legislature:
 - Bicameral vs. unicameral
 - PR, district, or mixed electoral system
- Executive:
 - Parliamentary
 - Presidential
 - Semi-presidential
- Winner-take-all vs. consociationalism

Takeaways

- Coalitions and coalition-building:
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- Executives:
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Formal institutions of government

- Constitutions and constitutional design
- Branches of government and distribution of power between them:
 - Judiciaries
 - Legislatures
 - Executives
- Elections and electoral systems
- *Coalition-building*

Next class

- Start of Part V:
 - Political parties
 - Interest groups